

**MINUTES**  
**EDUCATION ADVISORY MEETING**  
**TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**  
**UT - Joe Thompson Conference Center**  
**2405 Robert Dedman Drive**  
**Room – 3.102**  
**Austin, TX**  
**March 2, 2011 - 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

**Call to order.**

The meeting of the Education Advisory Committee (EAC) of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers (Board) was called to Order by Acting Chair Richard Schoephoerster, Ph.D., P.E., on March 2, 2011, at approximately 10:05 a.m., at the Thompson Conference Center, Room – 3.102, Austin, TX

**1. Introduction of Committee Members**

G. Kemble Bennett, Ph.D., P.E., Board Liaison, Texas A&M University  
William M. Berg, Ph. D., University of Texas, Brownsville  
Bill Carroll, Ph.D., P.E., University of Texas, Arlington  
James Dunham, Ph.D., P.E., Southern Methodist University  
Richard Schoephoerster, Ph.D., P.E., UT El Paso  
Mehdi Shadaram, Ph.D., P.E., UT San Antonio  
David Shattuck, Ph.D., P.E., University of Houston

**Staff present:**

David Howell, P.E., Director of Licensing

**Visitors:** None.

**2. Public Comment.** None.

**3. Approve Minutes from January 29, 2010 Meeting**

It was MOVED/SECONDED to approve the Education Advisory Committee minutes from the January 29, 2010 meeting. A vote was taken, and the MOTION PASSED.

**4. Update on Issues from the Board**

- A. **New Board Members** – Mr. Howell shared information regarding recent Board appointments: Ms. Carry A. Baker was appointed to replace public member Shannon K. McClendon; Lamberto “Bobby” Balli, P.E. was appointed to replace Jose Cardenas, P.E.; and James Greer, P.E. was reappointed to the Board.
- B. **Legislative Issues** – Mr. Howell shared information regarding the on-going 2011 Texas legislative session and the proposed bills that are being tracked that could affect the Texas Engineering Practice Act

(TEPA). Dr. Bennett shared his understanding on these issues with the committee. There was general discussion of the items.

- C. **Rule Changes**— Mr. Howell gave a summary of the Board’s rule changes since the last EAC meeting. He briefly explained each rule change and the intent of each change.
- D. **PE/FE Exam Statistics** – Mr. Howell presented statistics of the last PE and FE exams in Texas. Statistics on number of examinees and pass rates were discussed.
- E. **Software Engineering** – Mr. Howell updated the committee on the status of the initiative to create a PE exam for Software Engineering. NCEES is working with IEEE and the exam committee on the development of the exam, which has a proposed implementation of 2013. In addition, Mr. Howell is on a task force whose purpose is to develop a document to help Licensing Boards handle the nuances of software engineering and how to fit software engineering into the existing licensing paradigm.
- F. **Computer Based Testing (CBT)** - Mr. Howell updated the committee on the movement toward computer based testing for the NCEES engineering examinations. He explained that NCEES agreed moving forward with CBT for the FE exam at the 2010 National meeting. NCEES has announced the selection of a testing company (Pearson VUE) to implement the CBT FE. Implementation is expected in 2013.
- G. **Structural 16 Hour Exam / Structural Licensure** – Mr. Howell shared information about the upcoming changes to the NCEES PE exams for Structural engineering. The new exam will be implemented in April, 2011.
- H. **Engineering Educator Licensing** - Mr. Howell gave a summary of the Board’s rule change regarding this issue and thanked the committee members for their comments during the rulemaking process. Dr. Schoephoerster informed the committee that he is Chair of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE) Professional Engineers in Education Practice Division. He will be presenting the issues and concerns regarding licensure of educators to the TSPE Board to muster their support for changes to the TEPA. He called on the committee members for their support as the issue is presented and discussed in the future.
- I. **Joint Advisory Committee with Geoscientists**– Mr. Howell shared information about the MOU between the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists and the TBPE to handle cases of enforcement overlap.
- J. **Faithful Agent** - Mr. Howell gave a summary of the Board’s potential rule change regarding Faithful Agent. He briefly explained the concept being presented and the history of the rule. There was general discussion of the concept. Committee members were asked to submit comments to the TBPE if they had any thoughts or suggestions.

5. **Issues for Discussion** –Dr. Schoephoerster opened the floor to committee members for discussion. Committee members discussed the Transfer Compacts being developed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). Transfer Compacts are agreements between colleges and universities to establish sufficient commonality between courses at different educational institutions to ease the transfer of credits from one university or college to another. The compacts would generally cover the first two years of a degree plan. The THECB is trying to establish the agreements for all disciplines and has done several in engineering. Mechanical, Civil, and Electrical programs were mentioned. Some of the committee members had assigned participants to some of the workgroups. Some committee members stated that their programs decided not to participate due to one of the restrictions in the agreement would result in mandatory enrollment of students who met certain criteria. Some committee members were not aware of this project and it was guessed that THECB only included public colleges and universities. Committee members said that they each have standing agreements regarding transferability of credits with other institutions. Mr. Howell presented two flyers developed by Dr. Nelson's staff at UT Tyler which could be used by all the engineering programs in Texas to encourage engineering students to become licensed engineers. The committee members discussed the flyers, but no specific comment was offered.
6. **Issues for Discussion for the Joint Education, Government and Industry Meeting** – None.
7. **Issues for consideration at the Next scheduled EAC meeting** – None.
8. **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.

Date minutes were approved by Committee: March 23, 2012

Date minutes were accepted by LicensingCommittee: May 23, 2012

Date minutes were accepted by Board: May 24, 2012